

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 01, 2023

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Crane(13), Vice Chairman Young, Representatives Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Scott, Andrus, Skaug, Alfieri, Allgood, Crane(12), Gannon, Green

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Palmer, Crane (12)

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

**Chairman Young** called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT  
REQUEST:** **Chairman Young** made an unanimous consent request to adjust the order of the agenda. There being no objection, the request was granted.

**RS 30392:** **Rep. Skaug** presented **RS 30392**, a proposed House Concurrent Resolution, reaffirming Idaho's relationship with Taiwan. Rep. Skaug stated Taiwan needs our agricultural products and Idaho needs their computer chips.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Barbieri** made a motion to introduce **RS 30392** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar with the following changes: on Page 1, Line 31, Change "2021" to "2022", and change "first" to "second", on Line 32, change "fifth" to "sixth", and on Line 34, change "\$2.3" to "\$3.15". **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 171:** **Rep. Alfieri** presented **H 171**, legislation adjusting the term of office of School District Trustees from four years to two years and requiring candidates to declare their political affiliation status or unaffiliated status. Rep. Alfieri stated the public needs to know the candidate's philosophy so they will know how they approach the job and by shortening their terms, Rep. Alfieri believes it will reduce tensions between the public and School District Trustees.

**Quinn Perry**, Idaho State School Boards Association, testified **in opposition** of **H 171** because trustee's responsibilities are so wide ranging, it takes two years for trustees to understand their duties and responsibilities. Ms. Perry stated changing the board so often will disrupt the operation of school districts including student outcomes and since their terms begin in the middle of the school year and to avoid disruption to students, they will need staggered terms to avoid a complete turn over of the board.

**Dale Layne**, Idaho Rural Schools Association and Idaho Association of School Administrators, and **Brett Plummer**, Challis School Board Chairman, testified **in opposition** of **H 171**, stating it's difficult to find patrons willing to run for the school board. There is a cost to running an election and funding those elections and campaigns is difficult. They also commented this legislation opens the potential of having a complete turnover of the school board and, therefore, the lack of consistency will also lead to superintendents and teaching staff leaving and could affect student achievement.

**Karen Pyron**, Vice Chair, Butte County School Board, and Region 7 Chairman, testified **in opposition** of **H 171** stating, there is not a need to declare political party because boards work for students. Ms. Pyron remarked there is a steep learning curve for a trustee and not having staggering terms could lead to a complete turnover and, therefore, will not be in the best interest of students.

**Amaia Clayton**, Idaho League of Women Voters, testified **in opposition** of **H 171**, stating there is no reason to declare party affiliation and would not benefit students.

**Rep. Alfieri** presented closing testimony, stating candidates are more than capable to learn the job, training is provided and the opportunity to speak with previous trustees is available. He remarked if there is a complete turnover of the board, there is a reason, and that leads to an essential aspect in the bill of accountability to the public.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Skaug** made a motion **HOLD H 171** in committee subject to the call of the Chair.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a substitute motion to send **H 171** to the floor without recommendation.

There was discussion among the committee and the sponsor to work on adding staggering terms to the legislation.

**MOTION WITHDRAWN:** **Rep. Scott** asked an unanimous consent request to withdraw her substitute motion to send **H 171** to the floor without recommendation. There being no objection, the request was granted.

**VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:** **Chairman Young** called for a vote on the original motion to **HOLD H 171** in committee subject to the call of the Chair. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 30526:** **Rep. Andrus** presented **RS 30526**, proposed legislation authorizing only county clerks, election officials, officers or an employee of the state to distribute absentee ballots.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Crane (13)** made a motion to introduce **RS 30526**.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Green** made a substitute motion to return **RS 30526** to sponsor. **Motion failed by voice vote.**

**VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:** **Chairman Young** called for a vote on the original motion to introduce **RS 30526**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 A.M.

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Representative Young  
Chair

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Lisa Hendricks  
Secretary